



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/727,467	12/04/2003	Joerg Ulrich Fontius	P03,0554	7491

EXAMINER	
RAHMJOO, MANUCHER	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2624	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
09/04/2007	PAPER

7590 09/04/2007
SCHIFF HARDIN & WAITE
Patent Department
6600 Sears Tower
233 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/727,467

Applicant(s)

FONTIUS, JOERG ULRICH

Examiner

Mike Rahmjoo

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 August 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-47 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 16-46 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 and 47 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date See Continuation Sheet.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Claims 16- 46 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention groups II and III, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 08/06/2007.

Claim Objections

Claim 47 is objected to because of the following informalities:

As per claim 47 lines 5 and 7 applicant recites "...point to be selected...". It is unclear a direction and distance is specified prior to any point selection process.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5,7-8 and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cosman (US Patent 6006126).

As per claims 1 and 47 Cosman teaches a selection unit (corresponding to unit 808) to select a reference point see for example fig. 9a;

a direction unit to specify a direction (corresponding to coordinate system 804) from the reference point to the point to be selected corresponding to for example fig. 9:

and a distance unit to set a distance value (corresponding to ultrasonic unit 1068B) in said direction from said reference point to said point to be selected corresponding to for example fig. 19B wherein the ultrasonic probe has associated electronics or power means 1068B, which powers it, may send out the ultrasonic signal as to determine the distance T2.

As per claim 2 Cosman teaches the selection unit comprises a positioning to position a point on a two-dimensional surface (corresponding to points 834,836,838,840) and a sensor (detectors 800 and 798), the sensor registering a position of the point on the two-dimensional surface corresponding to for example fig. 9A wherein the detector system tracks the position of the probe and the probe tip and has a basis of data, e.g. "knows," when the probe touches these points.

As per claim 3 Cosman teaches wherein the selection unit comprises a mouse, a two-dimensional movement of the mouse (corresponding to the use of a mouse) registered by the mouse corresponding to a movement of the reference point on a surface corresponding to for example col. 17 lines 60- 65.

As per claim 4 Cosman teaches wherein the direction unit comprises

Art Unit: 2624

a level tiltable (joystick and the tiltable level) in a direction and a sensor, the sensor registering a tilting of the level in the direction corresponding to for example col. 17 lines 60- 65.

As per claim 5 Cosman teaches wherein the direction unit comprises a joystick tiltable in two directions(joystick with inherent tilting) , tilting of the joystick unambiguously specifying two angles for direction specification corresponding to for example col. 17 lines 60- 65.

As per claim 7 Cosman teaches wherein the selection unit and the direction unit comprise a pointer wand whose position and orientation specify at least one of the reference point and the direction with respect to the visualization corresponding to for example col. 15 lines 60- 67 wherein the probe (unit 808) has a tip or position or virtual tip 814 which may touch off a point of an arbitrary nature 834 (corresponding to reference point).

As per claim 8 Cosman teaches wherein at least one of the position and orientation of the pointer wand is measurable by means of ultrasonic elapsed-time measurements corresponding to for example. Col. 26 lines 35- 40 wherein the ultrasonic probe may send out the ultrasonic signal, may receive the reflected ultrasonic signal and determine a time delay between sending and receiving so as to determine the distance,

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cosman in view of Taft (US Patent 6169537).

As per claim 6 Cosman does not teaches the joystick is structurally connected with a mouse.

However, Taft teaches the joystick is structurally connected with a mouse corresponding to for example fig. 2a units 12 (joystick movable in XY directions) and 30 (conventional mouse).

It would have been made obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings Taft into Cosman to have a mouse assembled into joystick to partially overcome particular concern the awkward and unnatural hand position required to hold and control a computer mouse and therefore avoid great discomfort if a mouse is used for hours at a time and in extreme instances, serious hand and/or wrist injury, such as the infamous and debilitating carpal tunnel syndrome see col. 1 lines 30 – 40.

Claims 9- 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cosman in view of Sekiguchi et al (US PAP 2002/ 060665).

As per claim 9 Cosman does not teach at least two ultrasonic transmitters, and the input system additionally comprises a receiving unit to receive ultrasonic signals and a synchronization unit to synchronize the ultrasonic transmitters and the receiving unit.

Sekiguchi teaches at least two ultrasonic transmitters, and the input system additionally comprises a receiving unit to receive ultrasonic signals and a synchronization unit (see for example claim 9 for the synchronization unit) to synchronize the ultrasonic transmitters and the receiving unit corresponding to for example [0144] wherein two ultrasonic transmitters may be attached to the receiving unit.

It would have been made obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Sekiguchi into Cosman to provide a coordinate input apparatus capable of making a coordinate input from a plurality of input planes and when the line connecting the two ultrasonic receivers is perpendicular to the input plane, the distances from the input device in the input plane to the two ultrasonic receivers exist in a plurality of sets and therefore the sufficiently practicable coordinate input device can be provided for precision and efficiency of the device see [0012].

As per claim 10 Sekiguchi teaches wherein the synchronization unit is connected by a radio connection with the ultrasonic transmitters of the pointer

wand corresponding to for example [0144].

As per claim 11 Sekiguchi teaches at least two ultrasonic reflectors (corresponding to R1,R2 receiving the ultrasonic transmitted from the input unit 4), and the input system additionally comprises an ultrasonic transmitter, a receiving unit to receive ultrasonic signals, and a synchronization unit to synchronize an ultrasonic transmitter and a receiving unit corresponding to for example [0056]. Cosman also teaches light source in forms of various sources as reflectors see the abstract.

As per claim 12 Sekiguchi teaches wherein the ultrasonic reflectors are designed such that they reflect an ultrasonic pulse with at least one of different strength and with characteristic pulse form, depending on a frequency of the ultrasonic pulse corresponding to for example fig. 7 and the ultrasonic pulse form.

As per claim 13 Sekiguchi broadly teaches wherein the distance unit comprises a rotatable small wheel (corresponding to unit 17) and a sensor to detect rotation corresponding to for example fig. 4a.

As per claim 14 Sekiguchi broadly teaches wherein the input system also comprises a button to actuate a signal corresponding to for example personal computer 1 with on and off button.

As per claim 15 Sekiguchi an output unit to output a signal that comprises preferred information about at least one of the reference point, the direction and the distance value corresponding to for example claim 4 and the input and output coordinates or directions.

Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mike Rahmjoo whose telephone number is 571-272-7789. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM- 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matt Bella can be reached on 571-272-7778. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mike Rahmjoo



August 28, 2007

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3. Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date
4/8/04, 4/15/04, 5/6/05, 7/8/05, 10/24/05, 5/22/06.